MINUTES OF THE SYNOD OF N. C.

C285
S99
1829

THE LIBRARY OF THE
UNIVERSITY OF
NORTH CAROLINA

THE COLLECTION OF
NORTH CAROLINIANA
ENDOWED BY
JOHN SPRUNT HILL
CLASS OF 1889

C285
S99
1829

Philadelphian
Philadelphia
Pennsylvania

MINUTES

OF

THE SYNOD

OF

NORTH CAROLINA.

Sixteenth Sessions.

FAYETTEVILLE:
PRINTED BY EDWARD J. HALE.
1829.

C285
S99
1829

☞ The Stated Clerk of Synod, having been necessarily absent from home, and at a considerable distance from the press, when the first of these sheets was printed, the following errors escaped; which, though unimportant, are here noticed, that the reader may correct them, with his pen.

Page 3, last line but one,—For *Joshua*, read *Joseph*.
Ibid, last line,—For *Job Knox*, read *John Knox*.
Page 7, line 21,—For *this*, read *their*.
Page 8, line 23,—After *and*, insert *it*.
Page 22, line 10, for and read this.

c228s
Will

SIXTEENTH SESSIONS

OF

THE SYNOD OF NORTH CAROLINA.

Synod met, in the Presbyterian Church of the town of Fayetteville, in the County of Cumberland, and State of North Carolina, on the evening of Tuesday, the 10th of November, 1829, according to adjournment.

In the absence of the Moderator, a Sermon was preached by the Rev. Samuel L. Graham, from John xviii. 38. "Pilate saith unto him, What is truth?"

Constituted with Prayer.

Present.—Of the Presbytery of Orange, the Rev. William McPheeters, D. D., and the Rev. Messrs. Samuel Paisley, Samuel L. Graham, and Abner W. Gay; with Dr. Thomas H. Read, Ruling Elder.

Of the Presbytery of Concord, the Rev. John Robinson, D. D., the Rev. John M. Wilson, D. D., and the Rev. Messrs. John Williamson, Daniel Gould, Samuel Williamson, and Robert H. Morrison; with Mr. Samuel Caldwell, Ruling Elder. And

Of the Presbytery of Fayetteville, the Rev. Messrs. Robert Tate, John McIntyre, Colin McIver, and Duncan McIntyre; with Messrs. William Boney and Archibald McQueen, and the Hon. Henry Potter, Ruling Elders.

Absent.—Of the Presbytery of Orange, the Rev. Messrs. William Paisley and Ezekiel B. Currie, the Rev. Joseph Caldwell, D. D. and the Rev. Messrs. John Witherspoon, John H. Pickard, Elijah Graves, Elisha Mitchell, Lemuel D. Hatch, Eli W. Caruthers, Arch'd D. Montgomery, James W. Douglass, Joshua Labaree, James Weatherby, Job Knox, Wm. Neill,

PRESBYTERIAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY
425 LOMBARD STREET
PHILADELPHIA, PA. 19147

Darius C. Allen, William S. Plumer, Edward Hollister, and Daniel A. Penick.

Of the Presbytery of Concord, the Rev. James McRee, D. D. and the Rev. Messrs. Joseph D. Kilpatrick and Jonathan O. Freeman, the Rev. Robert H. Chapman, D. D. and the Rev. Messrs. Henry M. Kerr, Joseph E. Bell, Walter S. Pharr, John M. Erwin, James Stafford, Henry N. Pharr, John Silliman, Jesse Rankin, and Stephen Frontis. And

Of the Presbytery of Fayetteville, the Rev. Messrs. Samuel Stanford, Murdoch McMillan, Allan McDougald, William Peacock, John McFarland, and James G. Hamner.

Adjourned, to meet at this place on to-morrow, at 10 o'clock A. M. Closed with Prayer.

Wednesday, November 11, 1829.

Synod met, according to adjournment. Present as above. Opened with Prayer. The Minutes of last evening were read.

The Rev. John Williamson was chosen Moderator; and the Rev. Messrs. Colin McIver and Abner W. Gay, were appointed Clerks.

The Minutes of the last Stated Sessions of Synod were read.

A letter from the Rev. Lemuel D. Hatch, the last Moderator of Synod, assigning the reasons of his absence from the first parts of the present Sessions of this Synod, was received and read; and his reasons were sustained.

The Rev. Erasmus Powers, a member of the Presbytery of Harmony, and of the Synod of South Carolina and Georgia, being present, was invited to sit, with this Synod, as a corresponding member.

A letter was received from the Rev. John Witherspoon, assigning the reasons of his absence from the present Sessions of Synod, which reasons were sustained.

A letter from the Stated Clerk of the Synod of Virginia was received, read, and laid on the table, for future consideration.

The Report of the Board of Directors of the Union Theological Seminary, was received, and read; and referred to the Rev. William McPheeters D. D., the Rev. John Robinson D. D., and the Rev. Messrs. Samuel L. Graham, Daniel Gould, and Robert Tate, who were directed to make report thereon, during the present Sessions.

The Rev. John M. Wilson D. D., and the Rev. Daniel Gould, assigned the reasons of their absence from the last Stated Sessions of this Synod; which reasons were sustained.

The Rev. Messrs. John Williamson, John McIntyre, and Samuel Williamson, assigned the reasons of their absence from the last and preceding Stated Sessions of this Synod; which reasons were sustained.

The Rev. John M. Wilson D. D., the Rev. Wm. McPheeters D. D., the Rev. John McIntyre, the Hon. Henry Potter, Mr. Samuel Caldwell, and Dr. Thomas H. Read, were appointed a committee of Bills and Overtures, to meet, at this place, during the recess of Synod to-day; and afterwards, on their own adjournments.

The Records of the several Presbyteries composing this Synod, were severally referred, for review, to the following committees, viz.—the Records of the Presbytery of Orange, to the Rev. Messrs. Robert Tate and Samuel Williamson;—of the Presbytery of Concord, to the Rev. Messrs. Samuel Paisly and Duncan McIntyre;—and of the Presbytery of Fayetteville, to the Rev. Messrs. Morrison and Gay, with instructions to report thereon, during the present Sessions.

Resolved, That a conversation on the state of religion within the bounds of this Synod, and on other topics connected therewith, regulated by a resolution passed by this Synod, at its Stated Sessions of 1827, be the order of the day, for to-morrow, at half an hour past three o'clock, P. M.

The letter from the Stated Clerk of the Synod of Virginia, which, on its reception, had been laid on the table, was read a second time, and then referred to the committee on the report of the Board of Directors of the Union Theological Seminary.

Resolved, That, on Friday next, at 10 o'clock, A. M. Synod will, for a short season, suspend its deliberations, to afford an opportunity to the Presbyterian Missionary Society of North Carolina, to hold its annual meeting.

Resolved, That, on Saturday next, this Synod will spend some time, in prayer, conference, and mutual exhortation, commencing at 9 o'clock, A. M.; and that the Rev. John Robinson D. D., and the Hon'ble Henry Potter be a committee to make arrangements for these exercises.

The Rev. Messrs. Harding and Gould, were appointed a committee, to receive from the Directors of the Union Theological Seminary, on the part of this Synod, an account of their expenses in travelling to and from the said Seminary.

The Annual Reports from the Presbyteries of Orange and Concord, were produced; and, being read, were approved.

From the report of the Presbytery of Orange, it appears that said Presbytery consist of twenty-seven members; and have under their care, thirty-four congregations, four licentiates, and six candidates;—that, on the 13th day of December 1828, they have ordained, *sine-titulo*, to the work of the Gospel Ministry, the Rev. Samuel H. Smith;—that, on the 16th day of April 1829, they have dismissed the Rev. John Knox, to join the Presbytery of Winchester;—that on the same day, they have received, the Rev. Thomas P. Hunt, as a member of their Presbytery, from the Presbytery of Hanover;—that, on the same day, they have received the Rev. Hiram P. Goodrich, as a member of their Presbytery, from the Presbytery of Albany;—that, on the 18th day of April 1829, they have ordained, *sine-titulo*, to the work of the Gospel Ministry, the Rev. N. H. Harding;—that, on the same day, they have licensed Mr. Robert D. Russel, to preach the Gospel;—that, on the 7th day of October 1829, they have received, as a member of their Presbytery, from the Associate Reformed Presbytery of New York, the Rev. Sidney Weller;—that, on the same day, they have received, as a member of their

Presbytery, from the Presbytery of Elizabethtown, the Rev. Michael Osborn;—that, on the 8th day of October 1829, they have dismissed the Rev. Darius C. Allen, to join the Presbytery of Columbus, Ohio;—that, on the same day, they have licensed Messrs. Alex'r Wilson, and George Ferril, to preach the Gospel;—and that they have dissolved the church of Providence; and directed its members to unite with the church of Oxford.

From the report of the Presbytery of Concord, it appears, that said Presbytery consist of twenty-one members; and have under their care, fifty-one congregations; three licentiates, and two candidates;—that, on the 16th day of November 1828, they have ordained the Rev. Patrick J. Sparrow, Minister of the Gospel, and installed him Pastor of the church of Emanuel;—that, on the same day, they have licensed Mr. Robert L. Caldwell, and Mr. Leander A. Watts, to preach the Gospel;—that, on the 2d day of April 1829, they have received the Rev. Stephen Frontis, as a member of this Presbytery, from the Presbytery of Orange;—that, on the same day, they have received the Rev. Christopher Bradshaw, as a member of their Presbytery, from the Presbytery of French Broad;—that, on the 4th day of April 1829 they have licensed Mr. Josiah James Kirkpatrick, to preach the Gospel;—that, on the same day, they have suspended, from the Gospel Ministry, the Rev. Joseph E. Bell;—that, on the 15th day of May 1829, they have installed the Rev. Stephen Frontis, as Pastor of the United congregations of Bethany and Tabor; and that, on the 22d day of May 1829, they have received, as a member of their Presbytery, from the Presbytery of Bethel, the Rev. Samuel L. Watson, and installed him, as the Pastor of the congregation of Steel-creek.

The Rev. Messrs. Samuel H. Smith, and N. H. Harding, two of the new members of the Presbytery of Orange, above reported; and the Rev. Samuel Watson, one of the new members of the Presbytery of Concord, also above reported, being present, took their seats as members of Synod.

The Hon. Henry Potter obtained leave of absence

from the remaining Sessions of this Synod; and Mr. Arch'd McQueen was appointed a member of the committee of Bills and Overtures, in his place.

The Rev. Eli W. Caruthers appeared in Synod; and, having assigned satisfactory reasons for his absence from the preceding part of the present Sessions of Synod, took his seat.

The committee of Bills and Overtures, presented Overture, No. 1; which, being read, considered, and amended, was adopted; and is as follows, viz't:

Whereas it has heretofore been customary for Presbyteries, to grant to Candidates for the Ministry under their care, the liberty of occasionally addressing worshipping assemblies, in the way of exhortation;—and whereas this liberty, although, under proper restrictions, it may contribute to the improvement of students of Theology, and to the edification of the churches, is, nevertheless, sometimes productive of mischief, in consequence of the imprudence of some inexperienced young men, in giving utterance to crude and injudicious expressions, and sometimes, even to sentiments, hurtfully erroneous;—therefore *Resolved*, That it be, and hereby is, enjoined on the several Presbyteries belonging to this Synod, to take such order on this subject as may, in their judgment, be found best calculated to prevent, or correct any evil of the kind, which may be thought to exist among them.

Adjourned, to meet, at this place, on to-morrow, at 9 o'clock, A. M. Closed with prayer.

Thursday, 12*th November* 1829.

Synod met, according to adjournment. Present as above. Opened with prayer. The minutes of yesterday were read.

Dr. Murdoch McLean, a Ruling Elder of the church of Fayetteville, having been appointed to represent that church, in this Synod, as the alternate of the Hon. Henry Potter, appeared in Synod, and took his seat, as a member.

The Rev. John Silliman appeared in Synod; and having assigned satisfactory reasons for his absence from the last stated Sessions, and from the preceding parts of the present Sessions of Synod, took his seat.

The Rev. Messrs. Hunt and Stafford appeared in Synod, and having assigned satisfactory reasons for not appearing earlier, took their seats.

The committee to whom the report of the Board of Directors of the Union Theological Seminary, and the letter from the Stated Clerk of the Synod of Virginia, had been referred, exhibited their report, which was read, and laid on the table, for future consideration.

The committee of Bills and Overtures presented Overtures Nos. 2 and 3; which were read and laid on the table.

Overture No. 3 was taken up, read a second time, and adopted; and is as follows, viz't:

Resolved, That this Synod has witnessed, with great satisfaction, the noble efforts of the American Bible Society to introduce the Holy Scriptures, without note or comment, into all the destitute families in the United States, in two years; and they do affectionately and earnestly recommend to all the members of their churches, a cordial and vigorous co-operation with that great National Institution and its auxiliaries, in accomplishing this sublime enterprise of Christian Benevolence;—an enterprise, intimately connected with the dearest interests of our beloved country.

Resolved, moreover, That the Synod regard, with sentiments of approbation, the contemplated convention of the friends of the Bible cause, in the City of Raleigh, during the present month; and are of opinion that the meeting may be happily calculated to carry into effect, the great object in view.

Overture No. 2 was taken up; read a second time; and after some time spent in deliberation thereon, it was re-committed to the committee of Bills and Overtures, with the addition of the Rev. John Robinson, D. D., and the Rev. Messrs. Samuel L. Graham and

N. H. Harding, with instructions to report thereon, during the present Sessions.

The report of the Committee to whom the report of the Board of Directors of the Union Theological Seminary, and the letter from the Stated Clerk of the Synod of Virginia had been referred; and which had been laid on the table for future consideration, was now taken up; read, a second time; considered, article by article; and adopted; and is as follows, viz:

"The committee to whom were referred, the documents relative to the Union Theological Seminary, communicated to this body, by the Synod of Virginia, and by the Board of Directors of the said Seminary, report,

"That they have had the subjects committed to them under consideration; and beg leave to recommend to Synod, the adoption of the following resolutions, viz:

"*Resolved*, 1. That, in the event of the General Assembly's forming a new Synod, consisting of East and West Hanover Presbyteries, and other Presbyteries, this Synod concur with the Synod of Virginia, in requesting the General Assembly, to modify their act concerning the Union Theological Seminary, so as to provide, that the number of Directors shall be twenty-seven, viz: Eighteen Ministers and nine Ruling Elders; six Ministers and three Ruling Elders to be chosen by each Synod;—so as to accommodate the act, in all respects, to the new arrangement.

"2. That the Rev. Messrs. Samuel L. Graham, Jas. W. Douglass, and W. S. Plumer, be and they hereby are appointed a committee, to act with the committee which has been appointed by the Synod of Virginia, at their late meeting, with plenary powers, to purchase the Library of the late Rev. M. Bruin of New York, provided that funds for that purpose can be raised.

"3. That the Report of the Board of Directors of the Union Theological Seminary, laid before the Synod at its present Sessions, be approved. From the statements therein made, the Synod express their belief, that the smiles of the great Head of the church,

have crowned the efforts of the friends of this rising Institution, with encouraging success, during the past year: and they direct, that said report be entered on the Minutes.

"4. That, as the contingent fund of the Seminary, for several years to come, must derive its supplies from congregational collections, and whereas this mode of contributing to that fund, has been overlooked by nearly all our congregations:—therefore,—*Resolved*,—that it be again earnestly and affectionately recommended to all the churches within our bounds, to collect as soon as possible, twenty-five cents from each communicant, and from other benevolent individuals; and forward the same to James D. Wood, Esq., Farmville, Prince Edward County, Virginia; and that Synod, at its Annual Sessions, make inquiry of its members, as to the discharge of their duty in this respect."

"All which, is respectfully submitted.

"WM. McPHEETERS,
JOHN ROBINSON,
[*Signed*,] SAMUEL L. GRAHAM, } Committee.
DANIEL GOULD,
ROBERT TATE,

The following is the Report of the Board of Directors, as directed by the third of the above resolutions to be recorded.

"The Board of Directors of the Union Theological Seminary, under the care of the Synods of Virginia and North Carolina, report to the Synods:

"That, at their first meeting, held at the time appointed by the Synods, they adopted a course of study for the students of the Seminary, which completed the plan for its regulation: The plan, together with a sketch of its past history, its present condition, and its prospects, they have taken measures to have published; and it is hoped it will soon be ready for distribution. At the same meeting, they unanimously elected the Rev. Hiram P. Goodrich, Professor of Oriental Literature, and resolved, that the proceeds of the New York Professorship, should be appropriated to the support of that professor, engaging to

make up the salary of Mr. Goodrich, to eight hundred dollars per annum, until the proceeds of the Professorship should reach that amount. At the Spring Meeting Mr. Goodrich was solemnly inaugurated into that Professorship, according to previous appointment of the Board.

"The instruction and government of the Seminary, has been conducted by the Professors, during the year, in a manner highly satisfactory to the Board.

"The greatest number of Students connected with the Seminary, during the year, has been twenty-seven. Of these, twelve were of the Junior, five of the Middle, and ten of the Senior Class.

"The members of the Senior Class, have been licenced by their respective Presbyteries, to preach the Gospel, at different times, during the year. Only one of them, Mr. Angus McCallum, has remained in the Seminary, to the close of the year; and completed his course: One member of this class, Mr. James Robinson, promising great usefulness, had he been spared, has died during the last Session.

"At the close of each Session, a Committee of the Board has attended an examination of the Students, on the studies of the Session. These examinations have afforded very pleasing evidence of the capacity and diligence of the students, and the ability and fidelity of their Instructors.

"During the year, 193 volumes have been added to the library, by donations and purchase. The whole number of volumes which it now contains, is 2193, in good order, and well arranged.

"Some inconvenience has been experienced, during the year, for the want of sufficient accommodations for the students; and a house is now needed for the Professor of Oriental Literature: The Board, at their present meeting, have taken measures for completing the original plan of the Seminary buildings, which, they hope, will ensure its speedy completion. They have also accepted a proposal of the Professor of Oriental Literature, to collect funds, and superintend the erection of a house for that Professor: On this plan, a house for the Professor of Christian The-

ology has been erected by that Professor during the year; and is now nearly ready for occupancy. The funds to defray the expense of this building, have been subscribed by friends of the Institution, chiefly in Boston and its vicinity.

"To the permanent funds of the Seminary, $6257 have been added, during the year, exclusive of a Scholarship, amounting to $2500, which has been given to the Institution, upon certain specified conditions, by the Presbytery of Winchester, and accepted by the Board, and of $4000, belonging to the New York Professorship, now in the hands of agents in the City of New York: The whole amount of permanent funds already invested, is

"For the Southern Professorship,		$22,799
the New York Professorship,		4,100
the Scholarship of Winchester Presbytery,		2,500
		$29,399
"To this add, uninvested funds, the Little Scholarship,	$2,500	
and moneys for the New York Professorship, in the hands of agents, as mentioned above,	4,000	
		6,500
"And the whole amount of permanent funds of the Seminary is,		$35,899

"The two last items, though not invested, nor yet in the hands of the Treasurer, are productive.

"The Board have fixed the foundation of a Scholarship, in the Institution, at $1000, or any greater sum, not exceeding $2,500.

"The contingent fund of the Seminary, from other sources, than the interest of vested moneys, and applicable to the current expenses of the Institution, have been considerably less than last year. The congregational collections of 25 cents from each member, recommended by the Synods, have been received from only 16 churches of the Synod of Virginia,

and 4 of the Synod of North Carolina: They have amounted to only $289 50; less than half the amount, from the same source, last year: Could the churches generally be induced to adopt this simple and easy method of contributing to the current expenses of the institution, it would meet all its present wants: Unless something is done by the Synods to give efficiency to the plan, serious difficulty is apprehended; as the estimated necessary expenses of the Seminary, for the next year, considerably exceed the income from present resources.

"A plan has been adopted by the Board, and will go into operation at the beginning of the next Session, which, it is expected, will reduce the price of board in the Seminary, to about $4, or $4 50, per month.

"It is with peculiar pleasure, that the Board, in concluding their report, express their belief, that the great Head of the Church has so favoured the Institution with the influences of his Spirit, during the year, that the growth of the Students in experimental piety, has been fully commensurate with their progress in the intellectual furniture and discipline adapted to the work of the Ministry.

[Signed] "WM. J. ARMSTRONG,
SAMUEL L. GRAHAM,
JAMES CASKIE.

"*Union Seminary, 23d September*, 1829."

The committees to whom the Records of the several Presbyteries composing this Synod had been referred, exhibited their reports respectively; which, being read, were adopted, and ordered to be recorded; and are as follow, viz:

"The committee appointed to review the Records of the Presbytery of Orange, report, that they have performed the duty assigned them, and find the said Records generally correct; and recommend to Synod, that they be approved.

[Signed] "R TATE,
SAMUEL WILLIAMSON,
Committee."

"The committee appointed to review the Records of the Presbytery of Concord, report, that, having carefully examined those Records, from Nov'r 5th, 1828, to Sept'r 5th, 1829, they find them carefully kept, and recommend that they be approved.

[Signed] "SAMUEL PAISLEY,
DUNCAN McINTYRE,
Committee."

"The committee appointed to review the Records of the Presbytery of Fayetteville, report, that they have carefully examined said Records, from Oct'r 30th 1828, to July 11th 1829;—that they find these Records to be very accurately kept, and recommend that they be approved, to page 244.

[Signed] "R. H. MORRISON,
A. W. GAY,
Committee."

Agreeably to the recommendation contained in the above reports, the Moderator was directed to sign the Records of the several Presbyteries, as approved; which was accordingly done.

The Committee of Bills and Overtures presented Overture No. 4, which was read, and laid on the table.

The term of service of three of the Directors of the Union Theological Seminary, viz: the Rev. Messrs. Joseph Labaree and Colin McIver, and Mr. Samuel S. Downey, having expired, Synod proceeded to elect, by ballot, three other Directors in their room; and the ballots having been committed to the Rev. Messrs. Caruthers and Hunt, they forthwith reported, that the Rev. Messrs. Jesse Rankin and Daniel A. Penick, and Mr. Thomas L. Cowan, were duly elected, to serve as Directors of said Seminary for the ensuing four years.

Overture No. 4, was taken up, read a second time, amended, and adopted; and is as follows, viz:

This Synod having learnt, that the friends of the Sabbath, in various parts of the United States, are about to renew their petitions to Congress, to stop the transportation of the mail on that Holy day, therefore, *Resolved*, That this Synod do highly approve of these proceedings, when conducted in the mild spirit of

the Gospel, and do earnestly recommend to all the churches and congregations under their care, co-operation with their brethren, in other places, to secure this great and desirable object. Should this object not be attained, the friends of the Sabbath, will set themselves free from responsibility, by having borne their united testimony against this alarming national sin.

Resolved, moreover, That, in order to aid the friends of the Sabbath, throughout the State of North Carolina, in carrying into effect this important object, the Rev. William McPheeters, D. D., the Rev. John M. Wilson, D. D., the Rev. Messrs. McIver, Morrison, and Hunt; and the Hon. Henry Potter, be, and they hereby are appointed a committee, to draft the form of a Memorial to Congress on this subject, with instructions to prepare such draft, for the inspection of Synod, during the present Sessions.

A letter was received from the Rev. James Weatherby, assigning the reasons of his absence from the present Sessions of Synod; which reasons were sustained.

Mr. William C. Anderson, a licentiate of the Presbytery of Washington, Pennsylvania, appeared before Synod, as an agent for the Board of Missions, acting under the authority and by order of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church; and being invited to communicate to Synod, the object of his agency, he made a statement of the plan, the operations, and the wishes of said Board; from all which, it appeared, that the object of said Board was, to obtain this Synod's permission to form Missionary Societies, auxiliary to the said Board, in each congregation within the bounds of this Synod, not already otherwise pledged, and which should be found willing to accede to this proposal. Whereupon, a resolution expressive of this Synod's approbation of the plan of the Assembly's Board of Missions, was presented to Synod by one of its members, read, and laid on the table for future consideration.

Agreeably to the order of the day, Synod entered into a conversation on the state of religion within

their bounds, and on other topics therewith connected; dispensing, for the present, with the standing resolution, designed to regulate it, which was passed by Synod at its stated Sessions of 1827; and the Revs. Messrs Stanford, Hunt, and Harding, a committee appointed for the purpose, took notes, during the conversation, and were directed to prepare a connected statement of the information thus collected, for the inspection of Synod, during the present Sessions.

The committee appointed to receive accounts of the travelling expenses of the Directors of the Union Theological Seminary, on the part of this Synod, in travelling to and from the said Seminary, reported, that no accounts had been put into their hands.—Whereupon, the said committee was discharged.

On motion of the Rev. Wm. McPheeters, D. D., it was ordered, that six and a half Dollars be paid to the Rev. Colin McIver, for expenses incurred, arising from the necessity of hiring a horse, in travelling to the Seminary as a Director, his own horse having failed by the way.

* * * * * *

Adjourned, to meet, at this place, on to-morrow, at 9 o'clock, A. M. Closed with prayer.

Friday, Nov. 13th, 1829.

Synod met, according to adjournment. Present as above. Opened with prayer. The Minutes of yesterday were read.

Dr. Arch'd Smith, a Ruling Elder from the church of Philadelphus, appeared in Synod, and took his seat, as a member.

The Presbytery of Orange having asked the advice of Synod, touching the propriety of a Presbytery's holding its Sessions out of the bounds of the Synod to which it belongs, the following resolution was offered, viz: *Resolved*, That, in the opinion of this Synod, it is inexpedient and improper, for a Presbytery, to hold its Sessions, out of its own bounds, except such meetings as may be deemed necessary to be

nent, at the place, and during the Sessions of the Synod, to which the Presbytery belongs. After considerable discussion had on the subject, the further consideration of the above resolution, was indefinitely postponed.

The Rev. Allan McDougald appeared in Synod; and, having assigned satisfactory reasons, for his absence from the last and preceding stated Sessions of Synod; and for failing to give an earlier attendance on the present Sessions, took his seat.

Mr. Alex'r Morison, a Ruling Elder from the congregation of Tirza, appeared in Synod, and took his seat as a member.

* * * * * *

Agreeably to a resolution, adopted on Wednesday last, the deliberations of Synod were now, for a short season, suspended, to afford an opportunity to the Presbyterian Missionary Society of North Carolina, to hold its annual meeting.

The Presbyterian Missionary Society of North Carolina, having finished its business, the deliberations of Synod were resumed.

* * * * * *

The consideration of the resolution which was laid on the table on yesterday, touching the plan of the General Assembly's Board of Missions, was resumed; and after considerable discussion, the said resolution being amended, was adopted; and is as follows, viz:

Resolved, That this Synod cordially approve of the plan proposed by the General Assembly's Board of Missions, for rendering Sessions Auxiliary Societies to said Board; and they do hereby affectionately recommend to the several Church Sessions under the care of this Synod, to carry the said plan into effect, under the direction of the Agent, which the said Board have appointed for this purpose; but this resolution is not intended to violate the spirit of the last Assembly's resolution on this subject, which makes provision, that "the Churches, though affectionately solicited to co-operate with the Assembly's Board of Missions, should yet be left entirely to their own unbiassed and deliberate choice of the particu-

lar channel, through which, their charities shall flow forth, to bless the perishing."

Resolved, That the next Stated Sessions of this Synod, be held in the town of Morganton, in the county of Burke; and commence on the evening of the first Tuesday of October 1830, at 7 o'clock.

The Committee of Bills and Overtures presented Overture No. 5, which was read, and adopted: and is as follows, viz:

Resolved, That the following be the standing rule of this Synod, in future, in relation to absentees, viz: When the Ministers, who are marked as absentees, shall have stated to Synod, their reasons for having failed to attend on any of its sessions, it shall be in order for the members to make such remarks, of approbation or disapprobation, as they may think proper;—but no question shall be put by the Moderator, unless two members, by a motion made and seconded for that purpose, shall, in any particular case, call for an expression of the Synod's disapprobation.

Adjourned, to meet at this place on to-morrow, at 9 o'clock, A. M. Closed with prayer.

Saturday, November 14th 1829.

Synod met, according to adjournment. Present as above. Opened with prayer. The Minutes of yesterday were read.

In pursuance of a resolution passed on Wednesday last, Synod spent several hours in prayer, conference, and mutual exhortation. A large congregation united with the Synod, on this occasion: and the exercises were solemn and interesting, and, it is hoped, profitable.

The Annual Report of the Presbytery of Fayetteville was presented, read, and approved.

From this report, it appears, that said Presbytery consists of nine Ministers, and have under their care, forty-one congregations, two licentiates, and eight candidates,—that, on the 3d April 1829, they have declined receiving into regular connection with them

a foreign licentiate whom they had previously taken, on probation,—that, on the 10th July 1829, they have dismissed the Rev. James G. Hanner, to join the Presbytery of Hanover;—that, on the same day, they have dismissed the Rev. John McFarland, to join the Presbytery of Harmony;—that, on the 11th of July 1829, they have ordained the Rev. Arch'd Buie, Minister of the Gospel, and installed him Pastor of the united congregations of Barbacue, Bethesda and Big Swamp;—that, on the 7th of November 1829, they have received the newly formed congregation of Galatia; and that, on the 13th of November 1829, they have received, from the Presbytery of New York, Mr. William Brobston a licentiate.

The Stated Clerk was directed to prepare, from the Annual Reports of the several Presbyteries, a report from this Synod, to the next General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church.

The committee appointed to collect information, during the conversation held by Synod, on the state of religion, and on other topics therewith connected, submitted their draft of a statement on these subjects; which, being read, was adopted; and is as follows, viz:

"The reports which the Synod have received from the several Churches under their care, concerning the state of religion among them, are such as are fitted to inspire the devoutest gratitude to the King of Zion for those manifestations of his grace and goodness, which their people have experienced, during the past year. A larger number of our congregations have been visited with refreshing showers of grace, than have usually been thus favoured: and while a deep interest in the things that pertain to the advancement of Immanuel's kingdom, continues to be felt among the most of those favoured parts of the Lord's vineyard, an awakening, of much promise, is also manifested, among many more of our congregations. We have cause to bless God, that, in several of our churches, his spirit has been poured out, in copious effusions. While many souls have been favoured with comfortable hopes of having passed from death unto life; others, and of these a goodly number,

have been awakened to an affecting sense of their awful danger, and constrained to exclaim, "What shall I do to be saved?" Of those who have given hopeful evidences of piety, two or three had been the habitual slaves of the intoxicating cup: a few others had lived under the influence of the principles of infidelity. While these instances shew the sovereignty of Divine grace, let no one, of any age, or in any circumstance in life, take encouragement from them, to postpone the necessary attention to the things which belong to their peace. Let all be admonished, to "seek the Lord while he may be found; and to call upon him, while he is near." "*Now* is the accepted time;—behold, *now* is the day of salvation." "*To-day*, if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts." "Can the Ethiopian change his spots, or the leopard his skin? Then may he that is accustomed to do evil, learn to do well." A large majority of those who have been admitted to sealing ordinances, on a profession and promising evidences of faith in Christ, were in the prime and vigour of youth. This is, indeed, the season, when the seeds of every christian grace, should be sown in the heart. O, let the young be exhorted to remember their Creator in the days of their youth. God hath declared, that he loves them that love him; and that those who seek him early shall find him.

"It is gratifying to the Synod to learn, that the churches have not tired in works of benevolence. So far are they from being weary, in this respect, that a new spirit is going abroad among the churches, in relation to most of the benevolent institutions of the day; and we have much reason to hope, that a bright day is dawning, in which, every member of Christ's visible body, will *pray*, and *give*, and *act*, in full accordance with the spirit of his Lord and Master.—Then shall Zion be lovely in all her borders; and salvation and joy shall abound in all her streets.

"It is also matter of congratulation, that the Bible cause, is rapidly progressing among us. All the families found destitute in two of our counties, have already been supplied. In several other counties, re-

solutions have been formed, and vigorous efforts are making, to accomplish this great object, in reference to their own population. The discoveries made within our State, as to the number of families found destitute of the sacred volume, would hardly be deemed credible, had not the experiment been made. It is a fact, not to be denied, that, in some of the wealthiest counties in our State, four families out of ten, were found without a copy of the Bible. Now is the time for all our churches, to act with energy, in the great work of philanthropy. It is a work, in which, the patriot, as well as the christian, should feel a deep interest, and take an active part. It is greatly to be desired, that our whole State should awake on this subject; and press forward, in this labour of love; that, in accordance with the noble resolution of the American Bible Society, all who will receive the word of God, may be supplied, by May 1831.

"Much is doing within our bounds, for the promotion of the Redeemer's kingdom, by the wide and extensive circulation of Religious Tracts. These little messengers of divine truth, are well adapted to find access to many who are inaccessible to other means of grace; and, in many instances, God has made them the happy instruments of salvation, to souls, whom the living voice of the Ambassador of Christ, could not easily reach.

"Sabbath Schools, in many of our churches, are in a flourishing condition; and, we are happy to find, that they are increasing in number. We have, on former occasions, repeatedly recommended to our congregations, a persevering attention to these nurseries of piety; and we do again, renewedly and earnestly, and affectionately commend them, to the constant attention, and affectionate care, and fervent prayers of our people.

"In most of our churches, Bible classes have been formed among the youth. Some of these are large and flourishing. It is earnestly wished and desired, that all the children of the covenant, should unite themselves with these classes; that, like Timothy,

they may become acquainted with the Holy Scriptures, from their childhood.

"Synod rejoice to find, that, in all those places from which reports have been received, the cause of temperance, is rapidly gaining ground. Several distilleries, have, for conscience's sake, been stopped; and, from a view of the evils which have been known to arise from the habitual use of ardent spirits, many have ceased to traffick in this deadly poison. It is now but rarely used, as it has formerly been, in the exercise of hospitality; and, from repeated experiments, it has been found, that all those laborious undertakings, to which, the use of this dileterious article was formerly deemed indispensable, can now be much better carried on, without, than with it. Several temperance societies, on the principle of total abstinence from the use of ardent spirits, have been formed, within our bounds;—some of them large, consisting of from one to two hundred members; and incipient measures have been taken for the formation of many more; and we have good ground to hope, from the deep interest which the friends of religion and morality are now taking in this subject, that, within another year, a still greater reformation, under the blessing of God, may be effected.

"Much interest is felt, and diligence employed, in searching out, and educating, pious youth for the Gospel Ministry. Under the care of the several Presbyteries belonging to this Synod, there are now more than fifteen young men, prosecuting their studies, preparatory to this Holy calling; and several more expect, soon, to enter on the same preparatory course. Brethren, the harvest truly is plenteous, but the faithful labourers are few: pray ye, therefore, the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth labourers into his harvest.

"In connexion with this subject, we have the gratification of presenting to our Churches, the present standing, prospects, and claims, of the Union Theological Seminary. For these, we refer our Churches to the interesting report of the Board of Directors of that Institution, herewith published; from which it

will be seen, that this school of the prophets has a peculiar claim on our patronage and our prayers.

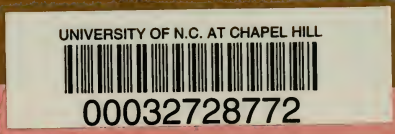
"Some interest is felt, by a portion of our population, in the object, plans, and operations of the American Colonization Society; yet nothiug worth noticing, has been effected.

"Something has been done, by our people, during the past year, in the cause of Missions; but much, very much, remains yet to be done. There are many counties in our State, where there is no Presbyterian minister; and but few ministers of the Gospel of any denomination. These destitute regions contain a large population, which is constantly increasing; and, at the same time, growing up in entire ignorance of Divine things. These facts loudly call on us to go forward, with increased and unwearied zeal and diligence, in the adoption of such measures as may increase the number of faithful labourers, in the Lord's vineyard. Brethren, although much remains yet to be done, let us not be discouraged. Let us be found in the path of duty; and we may safely leave the result with him who hath all hearts in his hands; and who conducteth them whithersoever he will, as the rivers of water are turned. The triumphing of the wicked is short. Let us, then, take encouragement; and be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might."

The Committee to whom Overture No. 2 had been referred, submitted an amended draft of said Overture, consisting of a Synodical Act for the promotion of temperance; which was read, considered, and unanimously adopted; and is as follows, viz:

Whereas the cause of temperance, in the United States, has already assumed a most encouraging and commanding aspect; and is daily becoming, more and more, a subject of the deepest interest, to the moralist, to the Christian patriot, and to the Church of Christ; and whereas, it cannot be denied, that the use of *Ardent Spirits*, has long been, and still is, the fruitful source of incalculable mischief to our beloved country;—marring the beauty, and threatening, more or less, the stability of its free institutions; de-

Temperance. Extract from the Minutes of the Synod of North Carolina, Nov. 14. 1829.


UNIVERSITY OF N.C. AT CHAPEL HILL
00032728772

FOR USE ONLY IN

THE NORTH CAROLINA COLLECTION